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AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

DEPT. PASS: ^{PANAMA for} UNCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, ^{10 AM 1968}

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: Feb. 23 - March 1, 1968

REF :

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: March 2, 68

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MAR 6 - 1968

1. The major incident of the week was an intensive shoot-out in downtown Zone 1 of the capital February 23 which resulted in two deaths and some 22 wounded. (See Guatemala 3462; [REDACTED] 1312) The incident was sparked when security officers spotted well-known guerrilla Carlos Raul Obregon Morales in Zone 1 of the capital and attempted to arrest him. He resisted and was killed but that action touched off a chaotic shooting spree on the part of the security forces in which several thousand shots were fired and a score of persons (six members of the security forces themselves and the rest almost all innocent bystanders) were wounded. Notable among the injured was Fernando Andrade, a leader of the DCG who came out of his nearby law office to observe the shooting, and received three bullet wounds.

2. There were two other shooting incidents in the capital. On February 23 two policemen were attacked from a passing car in Zone 1 and the next day Manuel Rolando Godoy Pineda was shot and seriously wounded and a policeman slightly wounded when Godoy's car was fired on by six men in another car in Zone 7. (See enclosed list of incidents and Guatemala 3476 for details.) Other miscellaneous violence included a grenade which exploded in front of the IGSS rehabilitation center, the shooting and wounding of a Public Highways employee in Zacapa, a gun fight in a dance hall in San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Dept. Guatemala which may have been apolitical. (See enclosure for details.) There were also seven more assassination victims located throughout the country.

Encl.: List of Incidents

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Eaj DATE 7 OCT 1993
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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FORM
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Contents and Classification Approval:
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4. Comment: While the February 23 shoot-out in Zone 1 once again dramatized that violence has become a fact of life in Guatemala, on balance the week was not particularly bloody, and the guerrillas did not undertake any important offensive action.

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Enclosure 1

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Feb. 23 - Two policemen attacked in Zone 1 from passing car. They were unharmed and returned fire joined by two more policemen in area. Car later located and two of the attackers arrested as they sought medical attention at IGSS hospital. They tentatively identified as Byron Enrique SALAZAR Vilatoro and Julie ROSSELIN Meza. A third man, Hugo CHEN Leon later also arrested and linked to first two.
- Feb. 23 - Major firefight occurred in Zone 1 of capital. Two dead, some 22 wounded. Dead were Carlos Raul OBREGON Morales, known guerrilla, and one of those arrested in October 1966 with Melida TURCIOS Lima sister of FAR leader. Also dead was private security officer. Wounded included 6 national policemen. Only person of prominence shot was Lic. Fernando ANDRADE - DCG party leader who was apparently hit by stray bullets. A number of persons were arrested for questioning but press reports all have been released. (See Guatemala 3462) B1
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- Feb. 24 - Gunfight at dance in San Pedro Sacatepéquez leaves one police lieutenant dead and several policemen and private persons wounded. One press report speculated terrorists may have been involved but other press reports supported Minister of Government Mansilla Pinto's claim liquor and/or personal, not political motives were involved.
- Feb. 24 - Arsonists burned car of Sergio FLORES Salazar in front of his Zone 9 house.
- Feb. 24 - Two assassinated bodies found near Coban, Department Alta Verapaz. One identified as Julio ARANGO Sanchez, owner of Las Pampas Restaurant, Zone 4 capital; other unidentified. Arango had been missing since February 14.
- Feb. 24 - Manuel Rolando GODOY Pineda attacked and seriously wounded and a policeman slightly wounded as Godoy's car was fired on by 6 men in another car, according press.
- Feb. 25 - Press reported grenade exploded in front of IGSS rehabilitation center in Zone 4. No casualties. Later press reports IGSS official sources deny IGSS was target; claim occupants of one moving car threw grenade at other moving car, and explosion in front of IGSS coincidence.

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Enclosure 1

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- Feb. 25 - Dept. of Public Roads (Caminos) worker shot and wounded by unknown assailants in Zacapa. He was identified as Max Constantino MAYORGA Cordon.
- Feb. 25 - Three bodies found shot dead at Km. 22 road to Amatitlan. Two identified as Ruben SANDOVAL and Miguel GARCIA Paiz. Third first wrongly identified as Ramiro Alberto RODAS Arroyo, mayor of San Andres Villa Seco, who has been missing since February 16. Body is now listed as unidentified.
- Feb. 26 - Press reported UPI story datelined Havana, Feb. 23, reporting Cesar MONTES statement that FAR has broken completely from PGT. [REDACTED] 1 BL
- Feb. 26 - Law student, Luis Oswaldo ALVARADO Sanchinelli, told press he was kidnapped by clandestine group and held prisoner four days. Claims he was released when group realized he was not person they sought.
- Feb. 27 - Minister of Government, MANSILLA Pinto told press that Sister Marian Peter and the Melville Brothers would not be permitted to enter Guatemala.
- Feb. 27 - Body of unidentified man taken from river Michatoya near Palin, Dept. Esquintla.
- Feb. 27 - Two San Carlos University students, Carlos Rafael BOURDET Sanchez and Jose Antonio ESTRADA Bolaños missing since Feb. 27 were first feared kidnapped but March 1 press reported Min. of Government MANSILLA Pinto declared they were in hands of authorities. He declined further comment.
- Feb. 27 - Alberto MENDEZ Montenegro, PR Secretary General, made lengthy statement to press in which he characterized the PR as caught between the extreme left and the recalcitrant right. He called for sanctions against those responsible for recent deaths and kidnappings.
- Feb. 28/29 - Press reported and then denied that body found in Dept. San Marcos was that of PR member and taxi driver Francisco Mario CHAVEZ Calderon who was apparently kidnapped in Malacatan Feb. 9. According to reports kidnapped with Chavez was Mario Alfonso OROZCO y Orozco, a Mexican National.

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